

Burleigh Street Cambridge Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Many of these stories were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014. They are supplemented by some selections 'From our Old Files' published in the Cambridge Independent Press and other notes.

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2016

1898 09 05

Awful was the fate of an aged women residing in East Road Cambridge, on Saturday night. Her body was found scorched, blackened and blistered in her burning house. Every article of clothing was burned, and not a hair remained on her head. Those who saw it were sickened at the uncanny sight. As quickly as possible she was carried to a costermonger's barrow and covered up with the first things that came to hand, after which she was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital. The fire brigade was hampered as the telegraph wires are set so low in that part of the town that it is impossible to run the fire escape along without catching the wires and causing not only damage but delay. In this instance the escape was delayed by catching the wires in Burleigh St

1899 07 17

A fatality occurred today. The scene of the accident was the new stores being erected in Burleigh Street, Cambridge for the Co-operative Company. The outer walls have been built up and the workmen are engaged on the interior. One scaffolder, named Thomas Filby, aged 60, was engaged on the scaffolding erected above the top floor. He fell sheer into the basement on to a heap of broken brick. Before he lapsed into a state of utter insensibility he was heard to murmur, "It's all up"

1900 01 25

The Cambridge Co-operative Society has erected spacious new premises in Burleigh Street. The building is imposing and by contrast with the other not very ornate premises in Burleigh Street is rendered all the more conspicuous. On the ground floor are spaces for the butchery, drapery and boot and shoe department. The first floor is well laid out for other branches with a ready-made clothes emporium and on the top floor is a really fine meeting room. The old building in Fitzroy Street will be retained for the grocery portion of the business.

1901 02 01

Great excitement was occasioned in the neighbourhood of Burleigh Street, Cambridge, by an outbreak of fire on the premises of Messrs Prime & Sons, the well-known firm of builders. The alarm quickly spread and only a few minutes elapsed before a tremendous crowd of people had assembled to watch the progress of events. It was obvious that the efforts of the firemen and police were somewhat hampered by the increasing density of the large throng of onlookers. The conflagration soon illuminated the whole of the district, the flames hovering above the housetops in alarming brilliance.

1901 11 05

A fruitless burglary was committed at the Mill Road branch of the Cambridge Co-operative Society. The object was obviously cash but they were scantily repaid for their trouble, because on Saturday evening the money is cleared and lodged in the strong room of the central stores in Burleigh Street. The manager noticed the disarrangement of some sugar bags, which had been left ready for the weighing up of sugar. A steel for sharpening knives had been used in breaking open the till. The back door was unfastened but nothing is missing, the thieves preferring not to take away goods which might have been identified.

1906 06 06

Albert Whitehead, fruiterer of Burleigh Street told the court that his shop had been broken into and 90 oranges taken. Four schoolboys were charged with the theft – they had taken them to the gala ground on Midsummer Common and sold them. Two of the lads had very bad characters and were sentenced to receive 12 strokes with the birch. 06 06 06

1908 02 15

Careless wholesale confectionary, Burleigh St, bankrupt – 08 02 15e

1908 03 05

The Waggon and Horses on the corner of Burleigh Street and East already held a music licence. They had a commodious room capable of holding 50 people which they wished to use for public dancing

once a week. But the Chief Constable said it was in an awkward part of Cambridge. A lot of people visited the house and it would not be well to offer further facilities. The licensee had his hands full in looking after the pub as it was at present. also Nags Head, Albion Row; Spotted Cow, Northampton St; Carpenter's Arms, King Street. 08 03 05 a & b

1910 12 16

Messrs A.M. Robinson held their Christmas sale as usual at the Cattle Market. Amongst the prize-winners was Mr C. Butler of Swaffham Bulbeck whose five pigs were purchased by J. Prior, butcher of Burleigh Street. There was a fine show of hogs over ten stone which was won by W.A. Payne of Fulbourn with a special prize awarded to E. Gautrey of Cottenham. Mr Backler of Linton won in the sow class while Miss Camps of Chesterton was best in the cottagers' section, her hog being sold to Eastmans 10 12 16a

1913 05 16

Police were called to F. Gunter's jeweller's shop in Burleigh Street when a clock was spotted resting on the guttering. The attic window was open and display cases disarranged. Rumours spread that it had been burgled and a crowd assembled, grateful for anything that promised relief from the tedium of Whit Monday. Finding the back door locked, police borrowed a ladder and entered through the attic window. Inside they found a servant girl who explained that she'd dropped the clock out of the window. Returning from an excursion, Mr Gunter and his family were surprised at the commotion 1913 05 16 p2 CIP

1920 03 31

Employees Welcomed Back,— There was an interesting gathering at the Co-operative Hall, Burleigh Street, Cambridge, on Wednesday evening, when the Cambridge and District Co-operative Society Ltd. gave a complimentary tea and concert formally to welcome all its employees who served in His Majesty's Forces during the war. Mr. G. R. Meaden the President of the Society, was in the chair, and at the conclusion of the tea he proposed the loyal toast and "The Returned Soldiers." Mr. James Quincey and Mr. J. Abrahams replied. Subsequently the toast of "Those we miss" was reverently acknowledged. Mr. Meaden committed on the fact that during the war every eligible man employed by the Society joined the Colours. An excellent concert was given by Mr. Hunt's concert party, and the various items of the programme were well received. The artists were Miss Dollie Hunt, Miss Dorothea Smith, Mr. Harry Collins, Mr. George Gass, and Mr. Godwin Hunt, with Mr. Arthur Noble at the piano.

1924 02 02c

The renewal of the music and dancing licence of the Cambridge co-operative hall, was objected to on the grounds of noise. Burleigh Street was one of the most densely populated parts of the town. The hall was not originally built for dancing, it had a large number of windows and the dancing room was situated on the top floor of the highest building in the neighbourhood, with the result that the sound was dissipated considerably further. As a rule the dances did not terminate until midnight and sometimes a great noise was caused by the people leaving - shouting, singing and the back-firing of motor cycles, of which a large number were brought by the people who attended

1925 12 07

The advent of Father Christmas in Cambridge marked the approach of the festive season. He entered the town by means of the railway line. Crowds of young and old alike assembled outside the station and as the train steamed in a vision of scarlet and white, with a long white flowing beard, was seen at the window. The coach that awaited his arrival might have featured in the pages of some Hans Andersen's story with his coachman resplendent in his green and gold livery, a footman in blue, & two trumpeters attired in old gold facings and velvet breeches. To the sound of a fanfare of trumpets and the strains of the band he started on a triumphal tour of the town. On his approach to his temporary home at Heyworth's stores in Burleigh Street he was officially welcomed to 'Treasure Island'

1928 01 16

Sir – there are a great many dangerous corners in Cambridge. Burleigh Street corner is dangerous on account of the Eden Baptist Chapel standing in the midst of this busy thoroughfare. I suppose this chapel has been in existence from time immemorial, but as times are now and as traffic grows bigger and bigger, there certainly ought to be something done to remove this obstacle from this blind corner – E. Claydon

1929 12 10

Sir – I was in the vicinity of Fitzroy Street early one morning and could see a driver with a one-horse van coming from Burleigh Street. He turned right on the corner round Eden Chapel on the wrong side and left down James Street, heedless of any danger. On seeing a police constable I asked whether he had noticed the careless driving around these blind corners. He replied: “This man, being alone driving one horse and van is under no rules or regulations and if he wishes is at liberty to wobble all over the road”. I suggest members of Eden Chapel should be approached over this unsightly spot, with its projecting iron fence; it is a serious block to public traffic. All such dangerous corners should be abolished – E. Claydon, Parsonage Street, Cambridge.

1931 06 12

A baker told the bankruptcy court that he started at Harston in 1928 and made a living the first year. He bought a motor cycle combination hoping to increase his business but it broke down. Two other bakers had been canvassed from Cambridge so he took premises in Burleigh Street. There were five other bakers within 100 yards and he hoped to make a ‘do’ against them. But what with rent, wages and bus fares from Harston he became insolvent. 31 06 12j

1933 06 16

Community and Labour opinions were so divided at a conference in Burleigh Street that a proposal to form a Cambridge Anti-War Council had to be adjourned after three hours. The University Anti-War Council said workers in Cambridge laboratories had been organised against war. Mrs Foster of the Women’s Co-operative Guild wondered who were being prepared as the next enemy of Britain. It used to be the French, then the defenceless Boers and last of all the Germans. She appealed to women to play their part against the wickedness of war before the catastrophe arrived. 33 06 16 & b

1936 01 03

With the enlargement of the drapery section, the Co-operative Society’s premises in Burleigh Street comprise the finest Departmental Store in Cambridge. On the ground floor, the Butchery has finest home-killed and imported meat, Grocery sells bread and confectionary, Outfitting has made-to-measure suits while Furnishing has three-piece suites and mirrors. Every Department is equipped in the most modern manner with lifts to all parts of the building. 36 01 03d & e

1936 01 30

Benjamin Rayment was first apprenticed to the shoemaking trade at a shop in Trumpington Street but decided to try his fortune elsewhere. He walked to Birmingham for work before entering the hat industry in Luton when the first hat-blocking machine was introduced from America. He returned to Cambridge and carried on business in Burleigh Street as a straw and felt hat maker for close on 70 years. When the straw hat industry was in its prime he used to supply ‘boaters’ to most of the University shops in the town. He had a wonderful memory with recollections of the Crimean War, the Chartist Riots and the great exhibition in Hyde Park and died in his 100th year. 36 01 30

1936 08 22

Mr & Mrs Ben Mills of Sleaford Street received a telegram of congratulations from the King on their diamond wedding. Born at Hardwick, he lost his right arm in an accident at the age of nine. Refusing to allow that disability to mar his life, he came to St Paul’s School, Cambridge and soon qualified as a teacher. He worked for W.G. Chater, the woollen merchants before joining the Co-operative movement in 1876, starting at the old shop in Fitzroy Street. In 1901 he opened the new shop in Burleigh Street with a silver key and has seen the premises grow. He became Provincial Grand

Master of the Oddfellows. His wife has been a familiar figure at the functions, quietly lending a hand 'behind the scenes' and catering for juvenile outings. 36 08 22a

1937 03 12

Mr G.H. Jacob specialises in his tailoring for ladies and gentlemen and holds Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in addition to thirteen trade diplomas. He offers a complete gentlemen's outfitting service. The shop at 34 and 35 Burleigh Street was established in 1859 by Mr P.S. Stevenson and taken over by Mr Jacob in 1912. In 1926 the business was extended by the opening of a branch shop at 23 St Andrew's Street where extensive enlargements and alterations have just been completed. 37 02 12

1937 03 05

Magistrates heard that the Old Guinea public house in Russell Street was owned by the Star Brewery who had redecorated it and fitted a new fire and sink. There were seven fully-licensed houses and two off-licences within 400 yards. The Burleigh Arms in Burleigh Street was a beerhouse which provided a living for the tenant who found great difficulty in getting any work. The Rabbit in Gold Street was a comfortable little house; it had two extremely nice trade rooms and Green King had put in new windows. The residents of East Road might be 'scared off' a big place. The Cross Keys in Saxon Street was the only beer house in the neighbourhood which had five fully-licences housed within 400 yards. Beer was drawn straight from the wood, which was an attraction and trade was good. 37 03 05j

1937 06 18

The Tyre Service Company claims to be one of the oldest tyre firms in Britain. Commencing in Norfolk in 1902 it moved to Cambridge in 1919 and carried on business at Pound Hill and Jesus Lane. Through constant expanding business they have transferred to more extensive premises in Burleigh Street where they carry the largest and most comprehensive stock of motor tyres in the Eastern Counties, including a full range of Dunlop, Goodyear, Indian, Firestone and all leading makes 37 06 18

1937 07 02

Magistrates heard that the Old Guinea public house in Russell Street was redundant: it sold a little over two barrels of beer a week and there were nine other premises within 400 yards. The Star Brewery was happy for it to close. But brewers Greene King opposed the closure of the The Rabbit in Gold Street. It was a nice clean little house and they had recently made alterations and repairs. It was close to the Burleigh Arms in Burleigh Street and they would not oppose closing that instead. This was agreed. 37 07 02 & a

1938 11 18

Messrs W.A. Bull commenced business in Burleigh Street over 30 years ago – Advertisers – 38 11 18

1938 12 13

Cambridgeshire Photographic Record exhibition – includes watercolours of areas impossible to photograph including view of Fitzroy Street and Burleigh Street corner from roof of Laurie & McConnals painted by Beryl Pickering; other sketches include the Saxon Cement Works, Eagle Hotel yard, Hobson Street from King Street end, Miss M.C. Greene paintings of yards – Ninepin, True Blue, Ram Yard, Falcon Yard. Last thatched roof in Blackamoor Head Yard - 38 12 13a

1945 09 25

First two Jap prisoners arrive – James Craft of Holbroke Rd & Maurice Foreman, Burleigh St – 45 09 25

1945 05 11

Gallantry. — Lieut. S. G. Love, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Love, of 15 Burleigh Street, Cambridge, has been mentioned in dispatches for gallant and distinguished services in North-West Europe. Lieut Love is in the R.A.S.C. and is attached to the Armoured Division.

1946 05 02

George Love repaired sewing machines in Christ's Lane and Burleigh St, then furniture removals and auctioneer conducting passive resisters and Ouse Drainage distress sales – 46 05 02a

1949 05 23

A "Happy Homes" exhibition was opened at the Co-operative hall, Burleigh Street. Several of the exhibits are of goods which are being made again for the first time since the war. One, a welcome sight, is the man's fitted wardrobe, with shelves for his underwear, ties and hats, and sliding rods and rails for suits and footwear. One exhibit which drew the women, was a cream and green electrically-driven washing machine, with automatic wringer, which does the family wash in an hour and a half, at a cost of about 1d in electricity a week.

1954 11 20

Thirty-seven gold coins – a sovereign and 36 half-sovereigns – were discovered by Cambridge corporation workmen, 23 of them in the sludge taken from the emptier at Swann's tip, Newmarket Road. This had come from the Birdwood Road and Norfolk Street area and when they investigated the gullies in the area thirteen further coins were found, two in a drain in Burleigh Street. These were heavy coins; they were unlikely to have been lost through a hole in a pocket; more likely they had been wrapped in something and disposed of by somebody who did not want to be found with them in his possession. Eight years ago a man in Long Road had been robbed of 100 sovereigns and 30 half-sovereigns – but there were more than this found.

1958 01 22

Fitzroy/Burleigh Street is easily the most convenient shopping area in the city, handy to the bus station and enjoys ample parking facilities. There is one car park at New Square and another in Burleigh Street. It offers the widest variety imaginable with two department stores and 39 specialist shops. You can get everything from fish cakes to furniture. Two good reasons why you should do your shopping there – Advertisement by the Fitzroy/Burleigh Street Traders Association. 58 01 22

1958 08 23

Cambridge Co-op ventured into the specialist field of gramophone records with the opening of a modern record bar in its Burleigh Street department store. Recordings are filed in classified order to make for ease of selection of the standard L.P. and E.P. records. Six sound booths give superb reproduction for customers who wish to hear the recordings. It also stocks a selection of record players, radiograms and tape recorders. 58 08 23b

1959 01 16

Just Arrived! Presley's Fabulous New Single! 200,000 sold in one week! 'One Night' c.w. 'I Got Stung'. Co-Operative Record Bar, Burleigh Street. The centre for disc fans (Advert). 59 01 16b

1959 08 26

Sir – in the area between Warkworth Street and Burleigh Street there are many little houses which have been bought by elderly people for their retirement and by young couples starting a new home. Now having been put in good order they are to be demolished by the Council in a 'development scheme'. It is cruel, unnecessary, and wasteful to pull down houses which are in liveable condition because in the same neighbourhood there are a number that are neglected and damp. I hope ratepayers will protest – Hilda Finney, Prospect Row. 59 08 26

1959 11 04

In the past few years the Fitzroy/Burleigh Street area, with its easy access, ample car-parking facilities and huge variety of shops, has become increasingly popular as Cambridge's most convenient shopping centre. Many of the shops were formerly in ramshackle buildings, combining timber and corrugated iron with a minimum of brickwork, often built over the front gardens of houses which had

their ground floors converted. But now these have made way for up-to-the-minute shopping premises and improvements are constantly going on. 59 11 04 & a

1958 11 17

Co-op new self-service super food store, Burleigh St - 59 11 17

1962 10 20

Burleigh street property bought by London property firm – 62 10 20c

1964 04 08

Bring back the sunshine with a bright new colourful deep-woven Axminster or Wilton carpet from the Co-operative House, Burleigh Street. Laurie & McConnal or Peak's Furnishers where you can save up to one pound per square yard. [A three-page advertising feature printed in colour on 8th April, the first time colour was used extensively in the News] 64 04 08a-c

1964 05 30

Screaming teenage girls besieged the Co-op in Burleigh Street when the Merseybeats, a 'pop' music group from Liverpool, made a personal appearance. Four policemen pushed the crowds back when the group arrived in a taxi and inside girls clambered on to radiograms, refrigerators and television to see them as they signed autographs in the record department. Some girls wept and others grabbed publicity photographs. Finally John Banks, Tony Crane. Aaron Williams and Johnny Gustafson escaped and relaxed with coffee before departing for Manchester 64 05 30

1964 07 06

Cambridge expansion: Conservatives would like to encourage businesses which start in the town and want the Market Square to be the main centre. Socialists want new light industries with the Lion Yard as a civic centre and with new shopping in Burleigh Street while the Liberals favour a central pedestrian precinct with public transport in the form of a minibus service or travloator. 64 07 06a

1964 09 01

Ward & sons, radio, bicycle and pram dealer to move from East Road to Burleigh St – 64 09 01

1965 93 11

Ward's move to new premises in Burleigh Street marks another stage in the long history of a firm which started when Jonas Ward made a living mending bicycles in East Road. For some time they made the famous Crown cycles, one of which was ridden from Cambridge to Monte Carlo in 1930. They also supplied carrier cycles and box tricycles. Later they diversified into wireless, gramophones, washing machines and baby carriages and became one of the first to stock televisions in 1938. – 65 03 11a, b

1966 03 04

Cambridge Gas Appliances garage, Burleigh Street, collapses – 66 03 04a

1966 08 03

Fitzroy Street sub-post office moved to Co-op in Burleigh Street, petition in protest – 66 08 23a

1968 03 26

Fitzroy Street – Burleigh St residents fear city council intend to demolish good houses under slum-clearance scheme – 68 03 26

1969 01 01

Trustee Savings Bank opens fourth branch in Burleigh Street – 69 01 01

1971 06 28

Fitzroy Street, Burleigh Street shopping – photos – 71 06 28 & a

1972 03 20

Most of the people who will be displaced by the Burleigh Street-Fitzroy Street redevelopment (Cambridge) want to be rehoused in the same area according to a report. Counc. Christopher Bradford claimed that the land was bought by the city council for "chickenfeed" ten years ago and is now worth £65,000. The council paid only £200 to £300 development value for some of the houses and perhaps £2,000 for some of the others

1972 07 26

A total of 160 houses in the Burleigh street – Fitzroy street area of Cambridge will have to be demolished to make way for the city council's shopping redevelopment scheme. At present only 34 of the houses are unoccupied. The city council are prepared to buy the houses at full market value if the owners cannot find other buyers. Some of the houses have already been classed as slums and earmarked for demolition. A number have in fact already been closed, such as in parts of James Street or demolished, as at Adam and Eve Street. A year ago the city council gave details of a large area outside the Burleigh Street - Fitzroy Street complex which they said would not be required for demolition. This gave the house owners the go-ahead to apply for grants of up to £1,000 to improve their homes

1972 11 21

The Cambridge city council's planning consultants who are designing the redevelopment plans for the Burleigh Street- Fitzroy Street have suggested the building of a departmental store East of Napier Street. Consultants feel that the introduction of shopping uses at this point would improve the whole project in addition to saving housing land to the North of Maids Causeway and James Street. They have also proposed that the pedestrian way along Fitzroy Street should be graded down and Napier Street itself raised over the pedestrian way. This appears to be the best way of separating traffic and pedestrians

1972 12 07

A large out-of-town shopping complex covering about 10 acres is being planned for Newmarket Road, just outside the Cambridge boundary. But Cambridge planning committee decided to resist the project. Fears were expressed about the effect the shopping centre would have for the city council's plans for redeveloping the Burleigh street - Fitzroy street area. Marshalls of Cambridge (Engineering) made an application to develop the shopping complex, together with car parking and garages on a site immediately to the East of their vehicular workshops off Newmarket Road. The site faces Cambridge airport

1973 01 25

Two national organisations are interested in building a dance hall in the Fitzroy-Burleigh Street area, the Cambridge Arts and Entertainments Committee were told last night. The Director of Leisure Activities, Mr David Constant, reported that the Mecca organisation had written to the Town Clerk confirming their interest. Another firm of national dance hall promoters were also interested, he said. Meanwhile public criticism of the lack of dances in Cambridge has led to a decision to hold a series of monthly dances at the Guildhall from next October to March. Mr Constant said the cost of a ticket, without subsidy would be 75p. If the dances proved a success they might be able to lower the price

1973 02 02

Householders, traders, planners and property developers have a common hope in the outcome of next week's public inquiry into the proposed comprehensive development plan for the Burleigh Street area of Cambridge. They all want a firm answer to a question which has blighted a decade of Cambridge planning history. The answer, if it comes, will not please everybody, since homes and small businesses are threatened by the scheme, but it should put an end to years of confusion and uncertainty. The question is: Will the Government give the go-ahead for redevelopment on the lines of the current proposals?

1973 04 26

The scheme to build a hypermarket for Tesco on the outskirts of Cambridge has been rejected by the city council. The scheme was put forward on behalf of Tesco by Stokes of Cambridge Ltd. They asked permission to build a 100,000 square foot hypermarket with a car park for 900 cars on land off Milton Road next to the railway line. The store would have been one of the largest in Cambridge. In turning it down the planning committee said it was outside the area allocated for development, would encourage extra traffic on a fast trunk route and was against the shopping policy for Cambridge in which large scale development is aimed at the Fitzroy Street - Burleigh Street area

1973 08 31

The £20m redevelopment scheme for the Fitzroy Street - Burleigh Street area of Cambridge may go ahead with only minor modifications, following the result of a 13-day public inquiry earlier this year. Several schemes for the area have been considered and rejected over the past 10 years, but the present plans, designed by international architects Piano & Rogers were adopted by the city and county councils last year

1973 09 10

Prof John Parry Lewis, the Manchester don who has just finished the biggest Cambridge re-development plan ever devised, has told the Government that it may as well be scrapped now if the new Fitzroy-Burleigh Street shopping centre goes ahead. When his final report is published it will contain some sweeping proposals. One of these is for a new commercial centre on the Cambridge outskirts - perhaps in the Trumpington area - in order to siphon shops and traffic away from the historic heart of the city

1973 09 21

Like some great suicidal spider Cambridge will have eaten its heart out by the turn of the century. Such is the dramatic prophecy of Professor John Parry Lewis who has been making a complete study of its future. Specifically he is saying is that if Cambridge proceeds with the scheme to build a twin shopping centre in the Fitzroy Street - Burleigh street area it will be signing the death knell of the present Market Square area. He concludes that a new focus for commercial activity must be developed on the edge of the city either in the Trumpington area or to the east near Marshall's airport. This cannot be done if the Fitzroy-Burleigh scheme proceeds, as the indications now are that it will

1973 11 10

A crowd of several hundred greeted BBC disc jockey, Tony Blackburn, when he arrived at the Cambridge Co-operative Society store in Burleigh Street. Store officials, red faces streaming with perspiration, linked arms and strained hard to keep the ground, largely consisting of weeny-boppers in order. He was appearing at the store to mark its £40000 ground-floor refit. The new hanging racks of jackets and jumpers were under almost continuous siege with children of all sizes, as they tried to get nearer to Mr Blackburn. After 40 minutes he left the store pursued by young fans. Nevertheless a number of children left in tears clutching unsigned photographs

1974 02 04

When Christ church, in the parish of St Andrew the Less, Cambridge, was built in 1839 the cost was £3,800. On Saturday a new church- installed at gallery level in the original building at a cost of £40,000 - was dedicated. Rebuilding began nine months ago, following the sale of Abbey church hall and Christ church institute to Cambridge city council as part of the planned redevelopment of the Burleigh street area. Now the building provides a new church with seating for 465 and at ground level a hall with seating for 200

1974 10 29

The Parry Lewis super plan for the future of Cambridge, which took three years to prepare at a cost of £20,000, has been rejected by all the senior city and county planning officers. The plans main suggestions were for the immediate scrapping of the scheme for extensive development in the Burleigh Street - Fitzroy street area and the building of a second shopping centre in the Trumpington

area. Chairman of the County Planning committee, Counc. Tony Cornell, said: "The technical boys took a look at Parry Lewis and they have not liked what they have seen"

1974 11 06

New plans for reshaping Cambridge's Burleigh St – Fitzroy St shopping area are being unveiled at a private meeting tonight. Although the project provides for more than 80 shops, including two major departmental stores, it is on a smaller commercial scale than the plans put forward three years ago. The project includes a new underground country bus station; placing much of Napier street underground to avoid disruption to people living nearby, a series of underground service roads to allow pedestrians traffic free access to the main shopping area, and the creation of landscaped parks. It provides for a new store for the John Lewis organisation and another for Laurie & McConnell

1974 11 08

By Cambridge planning standards, the argument over how the Burleigh St – Fitzroy St area should be redeveloped is a relative newcomer to a list of current city controversies. It has been raging for only 15 years. Which means that at least another 10 years of inactivity are necessary before the Lion Yard redevelopment record is reached. Cambridge city council has announced its intention of making a decision on the future of the area by the end of the year. But even if this happens it will not be the end of the story by a long way. There will be inevitable objections and the problem of raising money must remain a formidable obstacle in these economic times.

1974 12 31

The controversial multi-million pound redevelopment proposals for Cambridge's Burleigh Street – Fitzroy street area may be scrapped and traders and residents encouraged to rebuild as they wish. This is just what the majority of them have been advocating for most of the 15 years over which the controversy surrounding plans for the revitalisation of the area has raged. Leading members of the City council's controlling Labour Group are now trying to whip up general support behind the scenes for the new thinking. Moves come on the eve of the Government's expected announcement that after a two-year delay official approval is on the way to the area to be declared as suitable for comprehensive redevelopment

1975 02 07

The Government has decided after two years deliberation that the Burleigh Street – Fitzroy street area of Cambridge is suitable for redevelopment. This now lays the responsibility for action squarely on the city council who are likely to decide within two months whether to drop the much-criticised official development plan and go ahead with something less contentious. The plan has been unanimously rejected by the area's residents and shopkeepers.

1975 11 28

Cambridge City Council has brought the Rumble-Tum Restaurant at Burleigh Street and two private houses at Fitzroy Street. All are in the centre of the area, known as the Kite, which the council proposes to redevelop comprehensively in the near future. The individual purchase prices are not being disclosed. The Burleigh Street and Fitzroy Street properties will show an estimate future profit for the council of £1.137 a year from rents.

1976 04 17

The future redevelopment of the Burleigh Street - Fitzroy Street area of Cambridge is back in the melting pot following the decision of the outgoing city council to throw out the massive £30 million scheme proposed by a London development company for the Kite area. The rejection of the scheme, which would have brought a greatly-increased number of shops in to the area, together with car parks, a new road and an underground country bus station, was an easy matter for the city council. But it was far less easy for them to decide how to go about working out alternatives.

1977 03 22

Cambridge & District Co-operative Society's plan to expand the Beehive complex, which was turned down by the county planners, has been given the go-ahead by the Department of the Environment. The scheme, using the former Cadbury-Schweppes warehouse near Coldham's Lane will provide an extended shopping space, a garden centre and leisure goods sales centre. The Inspector said that as there were still no definite plans for the Fitzroy/Burleigh Street redevelopment the Beehive scheme would meet some of the shopping need without detriment to the city centre.

1977 04 20

A multi-million pound deal for the rebuilding of large parts of the Burleigh Street – Fitzroy Street area of Cambridge (The Kite) which would involve a handsome handout to the ratepayers is being negotiated between the City council and two internationally known development companies. Under the deal the redevelopment could be carried out without any cost to the ratepayers. The council would hand some of its land holdings – much now derelict – to the developers on a long lease. In return they would build large car parks for the council, re-grass the New Square car park and erect a number of shops, at least one of them a department store. And at the end of the development period the company would make either a substantial lump sum payment to the council or give it a large cut of the rents collected.

1977 07 27

The issue of redevelopment in the Kite area of Cambridge may have dragged on for more years than many care to remember but the controversy it has provoked is far from disappearing. More than 300 people turned up to the Guildhall. Opinions on the scheme varied. A pork butcher, Mr Jack Curtis, who had traded in Burleigh Street since 1945 said he had never seen a scheme that hurt so few people. There were interruptions, including an appropriately timed blast or two from a bugle smuggled in by Mr Arthur Sutton whose house is due for demolition

1979 03 29

Cambridge comes out poorly in the new 'Good Food Guide'; two entries are dropped leaving the city with just one restaurant, the 'unusually suave' Peking Chinese Restaurant in Burleigh Street, and one pub, the Fort St George. Out go the Strudel's Restaurant in Fitzroy Street and the Golden Palace Chinese restaurant in Ely together with the Eagle in Bene't Street and the Plough at Coton. Old favourites which retain their rating include the Old Fire Engine House at Ely, the Old Bridge Hotel Huntingdon and the Hotel de la Poste, Swavesey. The Pink Geranium at Melbourn gets the humbler 'Pass' rating.

The £10 million Kite area shopping and parking scheme scheduled for opening in 1982 may be scrapped if opposition against it throughout Cambridge is strong enough. An official of Grosvenor Estates, the development company, said "If the people of Cambridge do not want our product we shall not give it to them". But the present indications are that the public does want the Burleigh Street – Fitzroy Street area to be redeveloped as quickly as possible, despite the protests being voiced by pressure groups. The Kite Co-ordinating Council say the plans are 'hopelessly inappropriate' and it is a very cheap scheme: Cambridge deserves something much better than this.

1981 09 15

A park-and-ride bus service linking shops in the Burleigh Street area with the car park in Cherry Hinton Road has started disastrously. Nobody used the service for several hours. It is being funded with £400 from city lottery profits with Kite traders adding another £100. But councillors say the money should have been earmarked for charity. 81 09 15a

1981 10 09

Wards have been in Cambridge for more than 70 years, originally making and selling cycles. By the 1930s they were involved in electronics, making their own wireless receiver, the Wards Three Valve. In the 1950s they expanded into communications, selling televisions and other electronic equipment, moving from East Road to a new shop in Burleigh Street in 1965 with another in Bradwell's Court. At

its peak in the 1970s they won contracts with Iraq and the Defence Ministry. Now it will close for the last time. 81 10 09d

1981 11 13

Skirting the roadworks and dodging the demolition rubble, the visitor finds the Kite area of Cambridge hardly the easiest or most picturesque place to shop. Almost one side of Fitzroy Street is empty. The top end, which once included a Post Office, sweet shop, denture repairer and café called the Toby Jug, has been flattened. The Co-op department store in Burleigh Street have axed the traditional ceremonial arrival of Father Christmas as it would aggravate traffic problems. Add the lack of parking space and it is not surprising that traders fear for their Christmas profits. 81 11 13a

1982 04 08

Two of the most familiar faces on Cambridge market have called it a day. Kitty Davis has had a stall for more than 50 years; for much of that time she and her husband Joe have traded in fabrics, buttons and bows. Generations of doll owners have bought the frilly, lacy dresses she made. Racks of them hang beside her sewing machine at home; now she will sell them for charity. Previously she had a shop, 'Kathleens', in Burleigh Street selling ladies' underwear, hosiery and fashions. 82 04 08

1982 05 28

Darth Vader, the villain from the 'Star Wars' films and the children's television favourites, the Smurfs, will help celebrate the opening of Townsends new enlarged toy and cycle shop in Burleigh Street. The business started about 1895 in Norfolk Street, making cycles to order under their own trademark, 'Light Blues'. After the war they did up War Department stock and resold them, moving into toys in the late 1950's. 82 05 28 & a & b

1983 10 20

Shopkeepers in Burleigh Street feel they will be crippled by the opening of the Grafton Centre. Trade has been disastrous since the road was dug up five weeks ago and left with piles of sand, rubble and deep, wide holes. Now some are refusing to pay their rates bills. They feel developers want to make the area look like a tip so customers would stay in the Grafton Centre. But the City Surveyor says the road is going to be pedestrianised and will be completed on time. 83 10 20 p16

1983 10 19

Businessmen and shopkeepers in the Fitzroy-Burleigh Street area are hoping that trade which has been depressed in recent years by the area's lack of glitter and by the large-scale building works, will now come bounding back. Traders such as the Cambridge Co-op, now in the throes of a re-development plan which will see the conversion of its second floor to a suite of offices for letting, should do well. 83 10 19 p14

1984 05 14

Work on rebuilding the Cambridge Co-op store in Burleigh Street has reached the half-way mark. It will transform the historic building, bringing in new kinds of goods, a hairdressing salon and a coffee shop. For the first time it will have departments for self-assembly furniture and lighting as well as counters for the Burleigh Street post office and the Co-op Bank. A three-storey atrium at the Fitzroy Street end of the building will provide an airy display centre for shoes and furniture. 84 05 14 p5

1984 11 14

The redevelopment of the huge Co-op site in Burleigh Street has been beset with problems ever since the first report on Cambridge shopping in the fifties. Now it has transformed its flagship store inside and out, demonstrating its faith in the twin shopping centre concept. It says much for the Co-op's business acumen that it has kept pace with the latest trends, adapting to the needs of the times and retaining a hard core of loyal support from its members. 84 11 14 suppl6

1985 01 07

Cutlack, the Ely-based hardware merchants, are to close their shop in Burleigh Street, Cambridge. It follows a period of poor trading for shops in the street. They planned the business around the creation of the Grafton Centre but pedestrianisation has not helped in any way and their Newmarket shop does two-and-a-half times more business than the Cambridge one. The site will now be redeveloped with extra shop frontage and improved access to the three floors of office space on the site 85 01 07a

1985 03 22

The Salvation Army celebrates its centenary in Cambridge with a programme of events at their Tenison Road citadel. The Norwich Citadel Band was pelted with mud and many of them knocked over as they heralded the arrival of the corps in 1885. In Burleigh Street a crowd knocked their hats off and smashed both ends of the drum. Police had to use hosepipes to clear the protestors. Businessmen involved with the drinks trader and drinkers both violently objected to the Army's tee-total ideas. Churches objected to the brass bands crusading tactics which they thought lowered the tenor of Christianity. 85 03 22a

1985 08 30

Now that the dust has settled after the upheaval of building the Grafton Centre, Burleigh Street and Fitzroy Street have emerged as pleasant shopping promenades. Very few shops remain unlet with Andy's Records and Lancashire Mills about to open. Fitzroy Street will become more interesting in October when Habitat finally open at the old Laurie & McConnell shop while Burleigh Street will get a similar boost when the House of Holland opens in the old Arcade centre. 85 08 30

1987 09 29

A new-look Co-op has come to Cambridge with the refurbishment of the old premises in Burleigh Street producing the latest of the Society's Homemaker stores. Although it now occupies only the ground floor it has a more modern look and concentrates on electrical goods bringing it more in tune with the Grafton Centre. None of the staff have been made redundant though some have moved to the Beehive site. 87 09 29a

1987 11 20

Townsend Toys and Cycles in Burleigh Street is a family firm set up nearly 100 years ago in Norfolk Street. This Christmas top sellers include a range of small animal characters, 'Sylvanian Families' featuring McBurrows moles, Slydale foxes and Treefellow owls while the Manta Force spacecraft comes complete with vehicles and spacemen inside. Since the BMX craze slackened off some devotees have switched their attention to skateboards; beginners can select a plastic board for £12 while a professional can spend £200. 87 11 20 & a

1989 03 09

Cambridge Tyre Company, which celebrates its 60th anniversary, has a number of early tyres in stock. They include an American Swineheart tyre for a Model T Ford and a beaded edge Michelin from the same period. Ernest Brown founded the company in 1929 based in a small shop in Jesus Lane when many tyres were of solid construction. By 1935 they'd moved to Burleigh Street when tyres were fitted at the side of the road and in 1964 took over premises owned by Winston Smith the butcher in Histon Road. 89 03 09a

1989 07 06

Townsend's take over Ison's cycles which was started by W.J. Ison in 1893 and made the New Chesterton cycle. Albert Townsend started in 1890s making Cambridge Light Blue Cycles in Norfolk Street, moving to Burleigh Street in early 1960s 89 06 30 Townsend's history – profile – 89 07 06

1989 11 21

Co-op chiefs have been forced to sell off the freehold of their Burleigh Street store to fend off a cash crisis. The Victorian building has been sold to a London Investment Company and they will lease back the premises. The Co-op began trading in Burleigh Street in 1908 but has been hit by soaring interest rates on loans taken out to cover major projects such as the massive Beehive Centre. It has

already put branches up for sale in Mill Road, Milton Road, Waterbeach, Duxford & Cherry Hinton.
89 11 21

1990 02 01

Thornton & sons, fishing tackle and gun shop in Burleigh Street established in 1966; now to close –
90 02 01a

1990 09 21

TSB to close branches in Burleigh St & Jesus Lane – 90 09 21a # c.32.8